

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 AEC-11

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02

FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01

PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

IGA-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /226 W

----- 048743

R 261345Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7250

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2920

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, SA

SUBJECT: WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION: IMMEDIATE SAUDI PROBLEMS

REF: A. STATE 095838

B. DHAHRAN 0417 (NOTAL)

C. JIDDA 2875

SUMMARY: PETROMIN GOVERNOR TAHER CONFIRMS THAT ONLY FERTILIZER PLANT IN COUNTRY STILL PRODUCING AT LESS THAN 80 PERCENT CAPACITY, PROBABLY IN 70 PERCENT RANGE SO FAR THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, HE CLAIMS PROBLEMS ON WAY TO SOLUTION AND UNLIKELY TO NEED USG ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. GOVERNOR ABDUL HADY TAHER OF PETROMIN CONFIRMS THAT SAFCO, THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SAUDI ARABIAN FERTILIZER CORPORATION, THE ONLY PRODUCING PLANT IN

COUNTRY, STILL HAS PRODUCTION PROBLEMS. PRODUCTION NOW BELOW 80 PERCENT, PROBABLY NOT MORE THAN 70 OR 75 PERCENT OF FULL CAPACITY FOR 1974. HOWEVER, PLANT HAS SEVERAL CONSULTANTS AND ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO BRING IT UP TO RATED CAPACITY FOR FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY.

2. TAHER DID NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CALL ON USG RESOURCES FOR HELP IN LIFTING PRODUCTION CLOSER TO CAPACITY. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT WANT TO ENTIRELY RULE THIS OUT IF PRODUCTION PROBLEMS CONTINUE. (COMMENT: SINCE SAFCO HAS AN AMERICAN PARTNER, OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, WE BELIEVE THAT ASSISTANCE IS BEST LEFT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. HOWEVER, IF GOVERNOR TAHER SHOULD LOSE CONFIDENCE IN THE EFFORTS, WE MIGHT WISH TO REVIEW OUR DECISION.)

4. AMCONSUL DHAHRAN HAS DISCUSSED CONTENTS OF REFTTEL A WITH SAFCO MANAGERS.

5. SEVERE CRITICISM OF SAFCO OVER THE YEARS (SAUDI PRIVATE SECTOR HOLDS AN INTEREST IN THE PLANT) HAS MEANT THAT TOP POLITICAL AUTHORITIES AND GOVERNOR TAHER PARTICULARLY ARE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN MAXIMIZING OUTPUT FROM SAFCO. AKINS

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: EAGR, SA, US, (TAHER, ABDUL HADY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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